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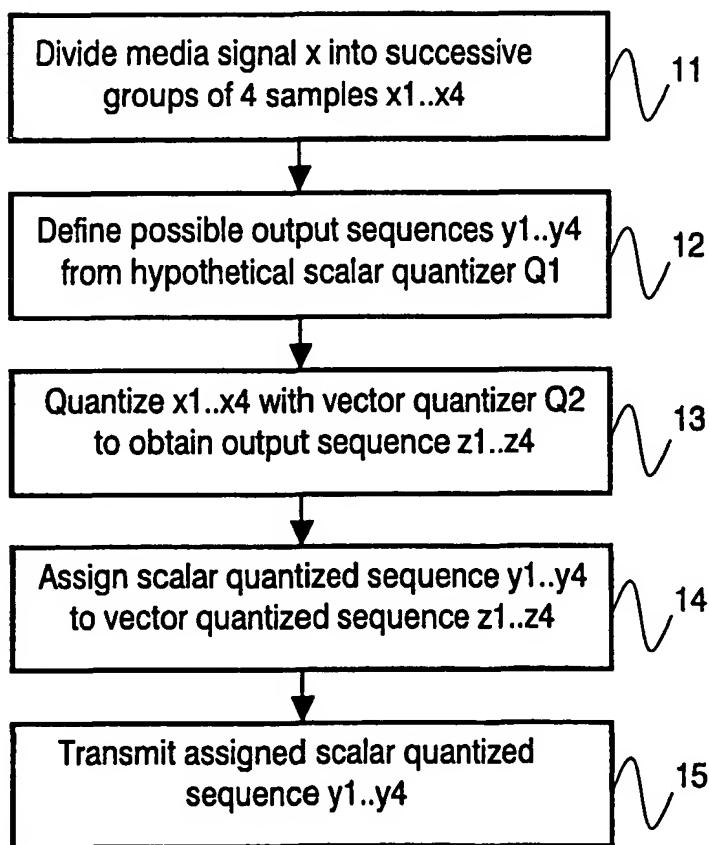
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(54) Title: ENCODING AND DECODING A MEDIA SIGNAL



(57) Abstract: The invention discloses a method of embedding information for high quality restoration of a media signal (typically an audio-visual signal) in a lower quality version of the signal. To this end, the signal  $x$  is encoded using a high quality encoder (Q2). The code sequences  $z$  produced by the high quality encoder are mapped into code sequences  $y$  that are associated with a hypothetical lower quality encoder (Q1). The latter code sequences  $y$  are transmitted. A simple decoder will decode the received sequences  $y$ , and thus reproduce a low quality version of the signal. A more sophisticated decoder is arranged to inversely map the received code sequences  $y$  into the code sequences  $z$ , that were actually produced by the high quality encoder (Q2). The sophisticated decoder will thus reproduce a higher quality version of the same signal.



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